

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01 /073 W
-----065876 281558Z /64

R 271355Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 510
INNQ RUFHEB/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 123
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0406

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT HU UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET LEADERSHIP

REF: MOSCOW 1212

1. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, WE NOTE THAT THE NEWS OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S TRIP TO THE FRG HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN BUDAPEST WITH SOME NERVOUSNESS.
2. SOME INFORMED HUNGARIANS HAVE COMMENTED TO US THAT THEY BELIEVE IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE ONE MONTH BEFORE THE VISIT WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE. THESE SOURCES INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN THAT BREZHNEV'S SICKNESS IS MORE SERIOUS THAN
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HIS PAST ILLNESSES HAVE BEEN.

3. THESE COMMENTS TO US ARE USUALLY COUPLED WITH A REMINDER THAT HUNGARY IS PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO SHIFTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE. WE ARE ALSO CAUTIONED TO REMEMBER THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A LEADERSHIP CHANGE IN MOSCOW IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPOR-

TANT FACTORS ON THE POLITICAL HORIZON OF HUNGARY TODAY.

4. NEVERTHELESS, THIS NERVOUSNESS HAS NOT BEEN TRANS-
LATED INTO ACTION -- EITHER IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS
OR IN OTHER FORA AS FAR AS WE CAN SEE.

5. NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF BREZHNEV'S ILLNESS NOR OF THE
POSTPONED VISIT TO THE FRG HAS BEEN MADE IN HUNGARY,
BUT KNOWLEDGE OF BOTH (FROM WESTERN RADIOS PRIMARILY)
SEEMS TO BE WIDESPREAD.
KAISER

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